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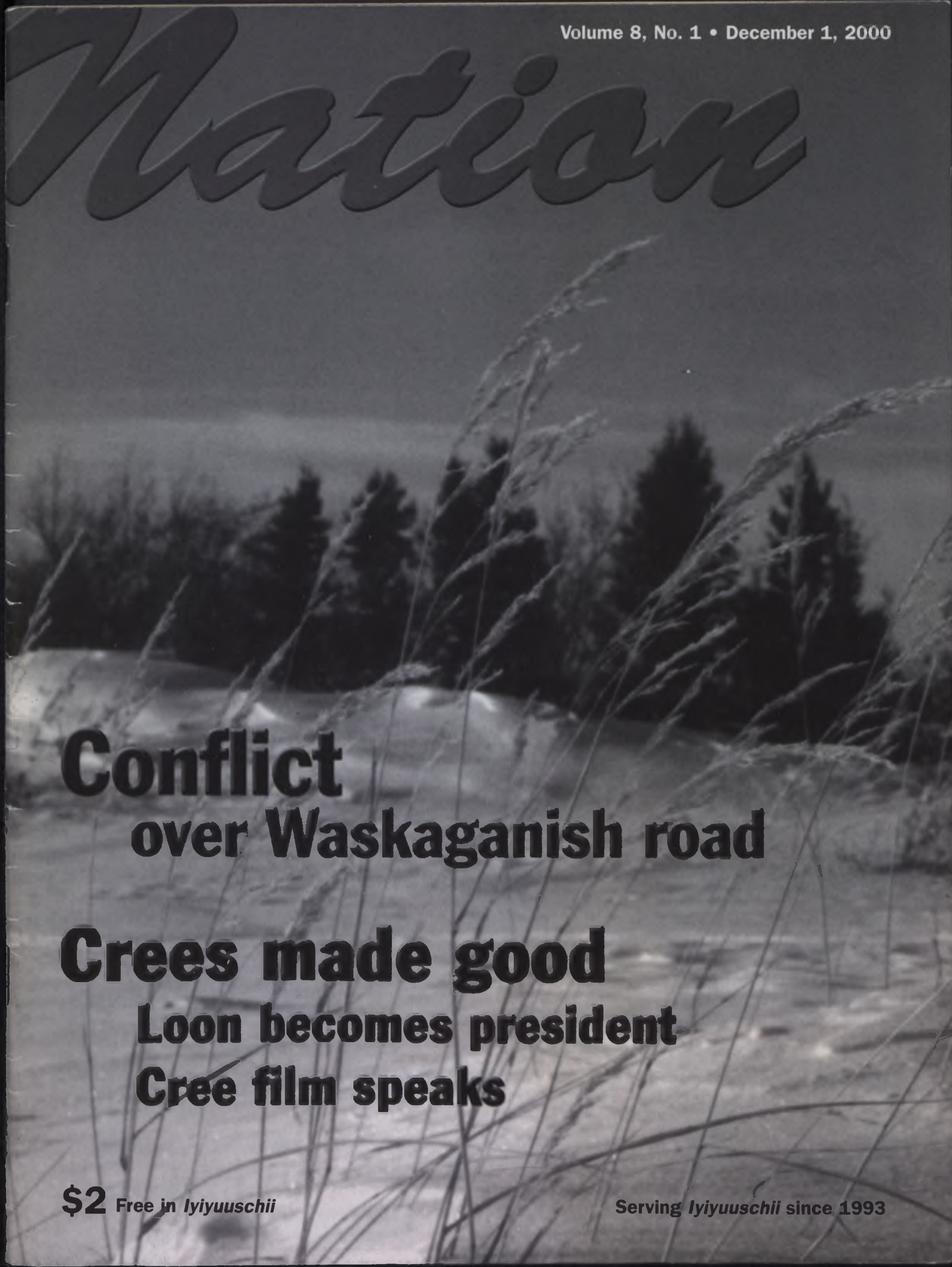
Nation



Conflict over Waskaganish road

Crees made good

Loon becomes president

Cree film speaks

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Charlie is currently studying at Cambrian College in the Civil Engineering Technician Program. He was hired this past summer as a technician in CCDC's construction and estimation division. Here are his comments on the program:

I enjoyed my work experience here at Cree Construction. It makes me feel I have chosen the right path for my career and my future.

Charlie (Civil engineering student)

If you would like more information on our PTM program, please call Steven Bearskin, President at

450-661-1102

AN OFFENSIVE PARTY?

I find most of what the Alliance stands for offensive, but nothing rivals its policy towards Aboriginal people in sheer, blatant offensiveness.

In essence, the Alliance policy proposes to ignore the law as it applies to Aboriginal people. They make no such proposition in relation to white people, only to Aboriginal people, which blows a monstrous hole in their claim to be "committed to equality before the law" for everyone.

As Chief Art Manuel of the Interior Alliance of BC. wrote to Day in September, when challenging him to a debate (Day's team responded that he was too busy, although Manuel is in Day's constituency): "I do not think any fair-minded Canadian would accept the proposition that an agreement should not be honoured because it has been made with Aboriginal people, and because it is old. The arguments of the right wing are really a throw back to a darker period in Canadian history when it was 'acceptable' to violate the basic rights of Aboriginal peoples. During the period 1927 - 1951, the Indian Act made it illegal for Indians to hire a lawyer or raise money to commence a claim against the Crown. There is very little difference between this kind of legislative discrimination, and present attempts by right-wing parties, such as the Canadian Alliance, to suppress Aboriginal and treaty rights altogether."

Manuel's letter establishes that Day and his Alliance cohorts are either ignorant about the history of Aboriginal rights, or racist in their blatant attempt to put Aboriginal people to one side as the only group in the country to whom the law does not apply.

Manuel adds: "Right-wing opponents suggest that Aboriginal or treaty rights should expire with age, because the situation is now different, and the signatories to the treaty should not be bound by it. How old would they suggest a right be before it can be disregarded - 100 years, 200 years? If one can ignore a 100 year old treaty, can one also disregard the Constitution Act, 1867 because it is over 100 years old? What about the land titles of non-Aboriginal citizens, which may have been acquired through a chain of title that is 40 or 100 years old? Where do such critics draw the line? Moreover, there is no suggestion by these same critics that treaties in which Aboriginal people surrendered their title to land might expire over time and the land revert back to the Aboriginal groups.

How can this 'expiration theory' only apply to one side?

"You cannot, on the one hand," Manuel writes, "piously demand that Aboriginal peoples respect the rule of law, while you and your party seek to form the next Government of Canada on an electoral platform that violates the special, legal and constitutional rights of Aboriginal peoples.

"For example, the Canadian Alliance is ready to constitutionally entrench 'private property', but pre-existing Aboriginal title property, which is already constitutionally protected, is to be extinguished or ignored according to your Party's Platform."

Manuel reads Day a brief lesson in the legal facts concerning Aboriginal title in Canada today.

He reminds him (if he ever knew, which seems doubtful) that in 1982, section 35 was inserted in the repatriated Constitution to "recognize and affirm existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal people of Canada", agreed to by Parliament and the provincial legislatures according to the amending formula in the Constitution and is now the supreme law of the land.

In 1985, the Supreme Court twice reaffirmed its recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights. In the Guerin decision the Court confirmed that the federal Crown has a fiduciary duty and obligation to Indians, which if violated, would lead to a claim of damages. In the Simon decision the Court upheld a Mi'kmaq treaty entered into in 1752, and said it must be interpreted in a manner that was understood by the Mi'kmaq. In Simon the Court also made it clear that it was no longer acceptable to use language and legal concepts which "reflect the biases and prejudices of another era in our history".

In the Sparrow case of 1990, the Supreme Court gave legal meaning to section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 in the context of fishing rights in BC. It recited the history of the evolution of Aboriginal and treaty rights in Canada and said section 35 constitutes a solid constitutional base for negotiations.

In the Delgamuukw case, 1997, the Supreme Court, elaborating on the nature and content of Aboriginal title first recognized in the 1973 Calder case, said that Aboriginal title is a proprietary right, which is constitutionally protected. It may be infringed, but not without addressing issues of consultation, consent and compensation. The Court moreover emphasized that the government has a duty to negotiate Aboriginal title.

The Marshall decision, which has caused the uproar in the Maritimes, was not a significant departure from the string of treaty interpretation cases that preceded it. The only change was that the Court found the Mi'kmaq were entitled to engage in commercial fishing under the treaty. And on this right the Court placed a severe restriction: they could only do so to obtain a "moderate livelihood".

This string of legal documents (and there are quite a number of others) makes nonsense of the Alliance policy, which appears to violate Canadian law in almost every line. Manuel comments: "You can make some positive contribution to the debate, but you need to come out of the dark ages first. This means as the newly elected Leader of the Canadian Alliance, you should depart from your predecessor's position and respect the

by Boyce Richardson

con't on page 6

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ON THE COVER

Eeyou Istchee

Photographer: Ernie Webb

Cover Design: MONA LAVIOLETTE

Rez Notes

BY THE ONE AND ONLY

Ed note: Rez Notes is no longer written byNeil Diamond, formerly the Cree Nation's foremost gossip monger. We can't tell you who or what is writing Rez Notes in order to protect the guilty. The writer will be outed in the future..

Christmas Fever... attacks entire continent

Christmas Time is a coming, Christmas Time's a coming!... Ever get stuck with a Christmas carol repeating itself over and over again, one of those new catchy tunes, like Redrider's version of the Chipmunk's hit Christmas Rock (one of my favorite x-mas ditties).

At least it looks like Christmas outside, I think, pulling on my totally impenetrable, many-pocketed portable shelter I call a winter coat. Only – 10 C, but with winds of 5-10 kph, oooohh, shudder, uyugh, its colder than yesterday and you know its gonna get colder by December, than Jan (and so on and on).

I check out the local department store and notice that everything's on special (but the prices are the same!). See the commercials now on TV, they're pushing you not to buy black socks again this year, a bit of relief from plain old buy...buy...buy!! advertisements of the last 100 years or so.

Making it to the stores ahead of time just to see Santa must have been a terrifying experience for Santa, like, how do you fit a pony down the chimney? That Santa's quite the logistics expert, remembering who is naughty and nice is hard to do, especially these days.

Around this time of year about a month before Christmas and all through the retail market, store managers are gleefully counting their money, whilst blue collar workers toss fitfully in their sleep, dreaming of the next 10 month personal deficit – where's Santa during all this. Lucky guy, he gets to have holidays 364 days of the year, while poor Mrs. Clause has to put up with the old geezer all year round.

Well, Christmas does have its virtues, especially when you become the receiver of all those black pairs and much needed holly patterned shorts with the peephole in the back (oops, put them on backwards again). Perhaps, one year, everyone will come together in peace (but at what price?).

Sometimes, it takes a special present for that loved one to make Christmas seem

like Christmas again. Personal presents are better but I like it when a present is memorable and made just for you. Like these Christmas gift ideas:

- A record player for your 40+ parents or even an 8 track player with tracks from Elvis and Wayne Newton
- Or...an Atari or Commodore home computer for your 40+ children, just to remind them that technology was once young at heart
- You can bake a tofu cake with sushi flavored icing for your far east friends
- You can buy either a cookbook or the book of Kama Sutra for that newly wed couple down the street, who seem to argue constantly about what to eat or do at night
- You can have hand made sealskin mittens for you liberal bleeding heart animal loving European friends, killed this year
- Or how about a remote control with 101 buttons for your couch potato brother and a 10 year subscription toTV Guide along with the listing for every hockey game in the world.
- A flu shot for your grandparents, or better still, a condom with suspenders and a tab of Viagra to boot for good old grandpa, that way they'll both be happy
- A personal debit machine in your kitchen for all your freeloading buddies and extended family members
- (This one's nice) send a Christmas tree to your Inuit friends up North past the treeline
- Perhaps a set of front teeth for your favorite hockey player
- This one's for me (a VISA card with no limit)

All in all, Christmas is best when kept personal and under budget.

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Nation

PARENTS WANT FORENSIC AUDIT OF SCHOOL

A group of parents in Whapmagoostui is calling for a forensic audit of the community's school.

The call came in an anonymous five-page open letter that complains of a "very real crisis" in the Badabin Eeyou School.

The letter was signed by "some concerned parents."

It lists numerous problems with everything from students' safety, to misuse of school equipment, lack of a student council, excessive class sizes, missing teachers and dirty school grounds.

The parents also say their concerns "have been ignored, with a resulting sense of despair for the future of our children."

John Shem, the community's elected school commissioner, said the letter is to be discussed by the school committee.

"Some (of the concerns) are very, very legitimate," he said. "Some have to be resolved and of course I'm very concerned. We are doing something about it."

But the letter put the school's principal and community education administrator on the defensive. They say school officials are already aware of the concerns in the letter and trying to deal with them.

The letter, dated Sept. 25, came out of two community meetings in recent months where complaints about the school were aired. No school staff attended the widely publicized meetings, the letter notes.

The letter highlights some of the same problems listed in last year's Mianscum report on the Cree education system.

Some of the complaints:

- The school committee hasn't met for a long time. The committee is made up of parents and is supposed to advise the school on policy and administration.
- Parents aren't informed about school policies.
- The letter alleges that there may have been misuse of school equipment and credit cards. "No one knows about the state of the budget and finances at the school," it reads.
- Discipline is poor in hallways. At the same time, "many parents complain that the school staff continually takes the teacher's word over that of the students."
- The school has been missing five teachers since the beginning of the year. "Many of the students do not want to go to class," reads the letter. "Some teachers are always late for class, which presents a bad example. Additionally, some teachers yell and swear at the students."
- There are no general teacher-parent meetings, apart from report-card interviews.
- Pre-kindergarten classes contain over 20 students. "Such classes are very noisy. Again, many students do not want to attend and be exposed to the resulting confusion," reads the letter.
- There are "very few after-school activities."
- Maintenance and upkeep are poor, the parents say. "The front entrance-way of the school presents a depressing atmosphere to anyone who uses it – and everyone who uses it is exposes to boarded-up windows, graffitti, garbage and cigarette smoking."
- The school needs a student counsellor and special-needs

by Alex Roslin

see IRATE, page 9

More hostility at friendship centre

Confusion reigned at Montreal's Native Friendship Centre last week after rival factions wrestled for control.

The problems started after the election of a new board of directors last month. The new board moved right away to suspend the centre's two top administrators, placing them under investigation.

The problems were supposed to be discussed at a Nov. 21 community meeting.

But the centre sent out a press release saying the meeting was cancelled. Then a rival group sent out its own press release saying the meeting was still on.

That night, 30 community members gathered outside the centre's doors, which had been locked.

They had to hold their meeting at a nearby restaurant.

Meanwhile, one of the new board's members leaked the results of the investigation to The Montreal Gazette.

The investigation found that financial reporting was a little sloppy, but did not make any pronouncements on whether there were any actual improprieties.

Ida LaBillois-Montour, the centre's suspended executive director, said the investigation has cleared her of wrongdoing.

"I feel comfortable with the report," she said. "There is nothing in the report that implicates me in anything."

But that wasn't the end of the conflict. She and her assistant, Josianne Wanono, both in their jobs 14 years, still hadn't been rehired as of press time.

The day after the aborted meeting, the situation got even stranger.

Elation spread among LaBillois-Montour's supporters when rumours spread that some members of the centre's new board had resigned. LaBillois-Montour was asked to return to the centre by a board member, which she did.

By the end of the day, however, everything had changed once again. The new board members changed the locks and were

see HOSTILITY CENTRE, page 9

In the Mailbox

Re: Donations for a family in need.

To Whom it may concern,

On Sunday November 5, 2000 Abraham Kawapit injured himself, he fell down 5 or 6 steps of stairs and broke his neck in two places and now he paralyzed from feet to chest. He is from up north, Great Whale River in Hudson Bay.

On the same day he was flown in by plane and he is staying at the General hospital. His wife, sister and daughter are here. But, there are more family that want to be here with him, but, it costs a lot of money to fly them in. Plus, the hotel, city bus, food costs too.

The family is trying to fundraise to come to Montreal.

I'm asking on behalf of the Kawapit family if you or your organization can make some sort of donation. Thanks! For taking the time to read this.

You may mail your donations to:
William Kawapit
Whapmagoostui, Quebec
J0M 1J0

Or for more information you can call William at (819) 929-3384 from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

Or you can contact me, Mary. I'm the niece of Abraham. You can contact me at home (514) 939-9406.

Yours truly,
Mary Niquanciappo

Editorial

Con't from page 3

legal, historical and constitutional basis of Aboriginal and Treaty rights and accept the Supreme Court of Canada's decisions."

Here is the Alliance policy, for those who haven't read it. (As they say on TV: WARNING: some of the concepts in this policy are obscene, and may offend believers in the rule of law, and democracy) :

" 41. Our commitment to individual freedom and equality before and under the law is the key principle from which we will approach aboriginal affairs policy. We affirm the right of aboriginal Canadians to manage their own affairs subject to the laws of Canada and the provinces. Aboriginal self-government will be a delegated municipal level of government rather than a sovereign third order of government. We will not support race-based allocation of harvest rights to natural resources.

"42. Aboriginal Canadians should have the same rights and responsibilities as all other Canadians. Transfer of powers to aboriginal governments will include measures to ensure democratic accountability and the responsibility to fund services through the tax dollars of those being served.

"43. Our position in land claims negotiations will be to ensure respect for existing private property rights, affordable and conclusive settlement of all claims, and an open and transparent process involving all stakeholders. We will protect the democratic rights and freedoms of individual aboriginals, and establish their right to private ownership of property."

In other words, as Duncan Campbell Scott said in 1920, when he was running Indian policy for the federal government: "Our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic, and there is no Indian question, and no Indian department."

And, of course, no Indians.

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The Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation

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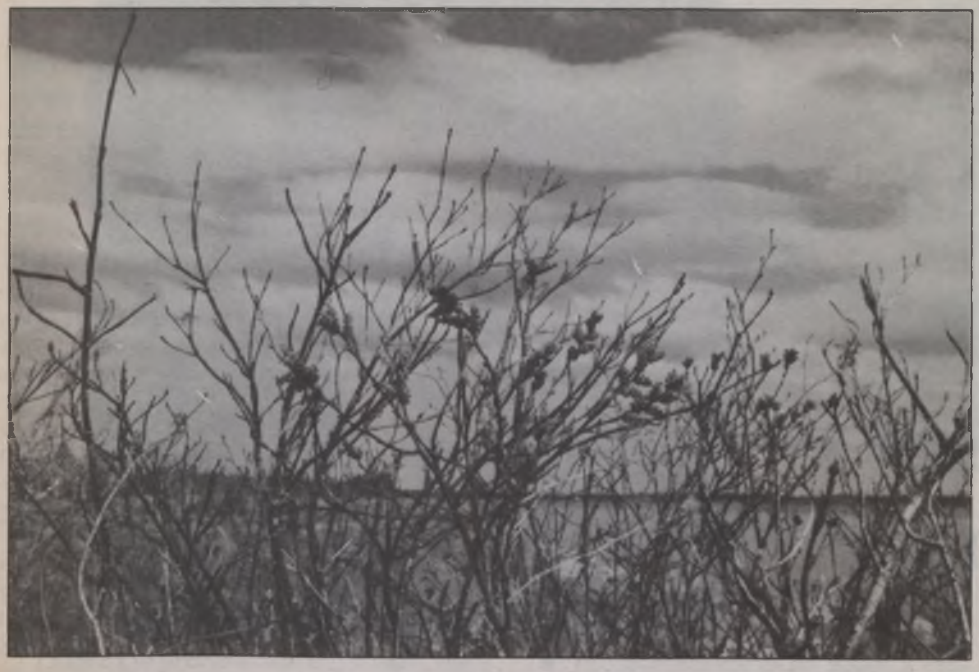
wishes all the participants in this year's Val d'Or Hockey & Broomball Tournament a safe & enjoyable tournament.

The Best of Luck to All



WORK STOPS ON ROAD WITH 11 KM TO GO

With only 11 kilometres to go, work has stopped on the long-awaited Waskaganish road after the province and Ottawa decided to hold back promised funds.

The 102-km road was supposed to be finished in time for this winter.

But the two governments suddenly suspended the flow of money in early November, complaining that the project was nearly $6 million overbudget.

Cree officials say they are baffled. They retort that the road costs went up mostly because of changes in the project demanded by Quebec and the feds.

"A lot of it is their fault. They demanded changes," said an official at the Grand Council of the Crees, which is helping the community negotiate with the governments.

Waskaganish Chief Robert Weistche is upset because the community was counting the days until the road opens.

"We have to put some logic and reasoning into this," he said.

After work on the road started last year, the governments decided to increase the projected speed limit from 70 to 90 km/h, said Weistche.

That meant design changes costing an extra $4 million.

The rest of the budget overrun is due to an unexpected jump in gas prices and a higher-than-expected cost for impact assessment, Weistche said.

Another problem: the previous band administration forgot to factor in the cost of winter road maintenance, Weistche said.

Further complicating things is the fact that the provincial official responsible for approving funds for the project has just been appointed to a new job.

Daniel Doré, the Quebec Transport Ministry's new director for Abitibi and northern Quebec, said he needs an explanation of why the project went overbudget before he can approve any extra funds.

"We have no information on this," said Doré.

But when asked about the increased speed limit, gas-price hike and other problems cited by the Crees, Doré said it was the first time he had heard about them.

He said he had been on the job for only three days when contacted by *The Nation*. "You're informing me of something," he acknowledged.

Doré promised to ask around about the problems and get back to us.

Cree officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that in the background there is a deeper issue behind the dispute.

The problem, they say, is federal and provincial officials are meddling in local Waskaganish politics.

The government officials were close to former Waskaganish Chief Billy Diamond's administration, said the Cree officials.

Now, the governments are trying to undermine the new chief, Weistche, because he has tried to change

by Alex Roslin

see STALLED, p. 9

Moses meets Bouchard to unjam talks

Grand Chief Ted Moses met with Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard on Nov. 23 in a last-ditch attempt to resolve an impasse in Cree-Quebec relations.

The meeting, originally scheduled for Nov. 11, had been postponed because negotiations on forestry and other issues had broken down without an agreement.

Crees were repeatedly assured the impasse would be brought to the Quebec cabinet, but the problems have gotten bumped off the agenda several times.

Most recently, the cabinet was expected to discuss the problems at its Nov. 15 meeting, but this did not happen.

Accompanying Moses were Waswnipi Chief Paul Gull and Mistissini's Kenneth Loon.

"They're going to try to get things unjammed on forestry. It's not going to be easy," said one Grand Council of the Crees official.

Coon Come invites U.S. to review forestry impacts

Matthew Coon Come, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, is urging U.S. officials to visit Canada to see "first-hand" how forestry is impacting First Nations communities.

The invitation came in the middle of sensitive Canada-U.S. negotiations to renew a trade agreement that regulates Canadian softwood lumber exports to the U.S.

U.S. business is complaining that Canadian wood is too cheap because of lax Canadian rules on forestry.

Cree officials have traveled to Washington several times in the past year to try to convince U.S. officials that First Nations are paying a heavy price for the loose regulations.

Crees and other First Nations say they should have a seat at the bargaining table to renew the softwood agreement.

"Americans need to understand that their cheap Canadian 2x4s are contributing to our enduring social and economic hardship," said Coon Come in a statement.

He noted that 40 percent of First Nations families are on social assistance, while forestry makes billions off their lands.

Ville de Val d'Or

Wachiya! Welcome! Bienvenue!

As new elected Mayor of Val d'Or and on behalf of all citizens, I wish a warm welcome to all the athletes, family members and supporters of the Cree Nation Tournament in our beautiful city from December 6-7-8-9-10, 2000.

I believe that such an event contributes in both the sharing and exchanging of our cultural, social and business relationships.

You will also rediscover Val d'Or, as an attractive city and as the most important commercial and industrial center in the area.

We are happy to greet you once again for this special sporting event and rest assured that your community will always be welcomed in Val d'Or.

Merry Christmas!

Let's make it a tradition!

Wachiya!
Wishing you all a pleasant stay!
Mayor Fernand Trahan

Hostility centre...

continued from page 5

seen removing several boxes from the centre at around 9 p.m., said LaBillois-Montour.

On Nov. 23, the new board issued a press release saying that "until further notice," the centre will be closed "for safety reasons." That day, no one was answering calls at the centre and a group was gathered outside in the cold, unable to enter.

A meeting is to be held Dec. 8 to discuss the conflict. **-BY ALEX ROSLIN**

Opening of Mistissini's newly renovated fire station.

Stalled...

continued from page 7

the way the band is run, the sources said.

Under the previous administration, the band wound up with a massive multi-million-dollar debt.

Weistche brought in outside investigators to look into the band's finances and also fired the firm Roy Lumby, which managed seven large construction projects for the band.

Cree officials questioned why the government officials are making a big issue of the road cost overruns now, when they were well-known many months ago.

"My hunch is it's political. It's payback time," said a Waskaganish band official. The Grand Council official agreed: "They are trying to play local politics."

But Jean-Pierre Roy, partner in the firm Roy Lumby, denied that the road or any other project it managed went over-budget.

"There was no cost overrun when we were there," he insisted.

Roy also denied that there were any design changes that increased the road's cost.

"It was never designed for 70 km/h, never," said Roy.

Roy Lumby is presently suing the band claiming unpaid bills.

The band suspended payments to the firm when it launched its investigation of band finances.

The chief federal negotiator, Jean-Luc Blais, did not return our phone calls.

Meanwhile, Weistche is defiant, saying work would continue on the road whether or not the governments gave their approval.

Irate parents...

continued from page 5

instructors.

- The parents complain about a canteen in the school that is being run without a business permit from the band.
- There has been no secondary school graduation ceremony for two years.
- School playground and sports facilities "are very old and their maintenance is questionable."

CEA Isaac Masty, reached at home where he's been on medical leave since August, said he hasn't seen the letter.

However, he admitted that the school has a few probems and invited the disgruntled parents to meet with school staff to help improve the situation.

Masty said the main problem is that it's been hard for the school to recruit qualified teachers, a problem that is plaguing the entire Cree School Board.

"We have had to hire people who were not fully qualified in the secondary sector in the past two years," said Masty.

"There is a high turnover of teachers."

Asked about the call for an audit, Masty said all spending is approved by the school board head office in Mistissini.

"There are no local funds we directly administer," he said. "Every cent spent is included in the yearly audit of the school board."

Masty said the audits haven't encountered "any major problems" with the Whapmagoostui school.

Asked an allegation in the letter that the fire chief had criticized the school's safety policies, Masty admitted there are some problems in this area, too.

"Sometimes older students come in to school drunk and the little ones are terrified. We think that's inappropriate," he said.

Masty also said the fire chief was concerned about kids using lighters to burn their initials into school walls. "All those things will be addressed," Masty promised.

The CEA, who handles school administrative matters, also said he is "aware" of the problems with garbage and dirt.

On another issue – the alleged misuse of school equipment and credit cards – Masty said, "I don't know anything about that. As far as I know, there are no credit cards in the school." He also said there isn't much school equipment to be misused in the first place.

The school's principal, Emily Masty, said the letter left her "very upset." She said she didn't attend the community meetings where parents aired their concerns because she never got an invitation.

The principal said some of the complaints in the letter were "misrepresented" and others were "very exaggerated."

"That's all been fixed. We're not the only school having that problem," she said.

"I think it's just a personal vendetta on somebody's part. They are just nitpicking. We have problems for sure, but nothing major."

Regarding the complaints of vandalism, she said, "It's no different (here) than any other school."

Masty said the Cree School Board and Quebec Education Ministry have visited the Whapmagoostui school, and proclaimed it to be well-maintained.

She said she knows nothing about misuse of credit cards or equipment.

As for the lack of teacher-parent communication, the principal said there are four meetings every year, "but some parents don't come."

Mistissini's Local Education Conference

by Will Nicholls

I had dropped in on one of the Cree School Boards Council of Commissioners meetings a while back. There were the usual discussions you would expect at these meetings about local and regional budgets, the need for teachers, post-secondary education, continuing education and somehow they even managed to celebrate Chairperson Mabel Herodier's birthday.

One of the topics that caught my ear was a request from Mistissini. During a Band meeting community members requested a local education conference and the movement of two pedagogical days to be able to hold the three-day meeting. After talking to Beverly Quinn, Mistissini's commissioner, I was invited to drop by for the November 1-3 conference. It would be a conference that would involve parents, staff and teachers to discuss the local schools and how to improve them.

I walked into Voyager Memorial School and was amazed at the displays. Obviously there was a great team who came together to create interesting and informative booths. I grabbed stuff on bullying, study skills, internal directories, a 2000-2001 Parent Handbook, etc. I was impressed and could hardly wait to see what was happening.

I quickly found out that one of the main topics was the Mianscum report that the CSB had received in December 1999. The report talked about the successes the CSB has had, such as a good infrastructure, a decentralized administration and staffing.

Among the problems relating to the report to be discussed were the high drop out rate from the secondary and post-secondary programs, putting elementary students in the same building as secondary students, perception of schools as daycares and parental involvement in the school and with students.

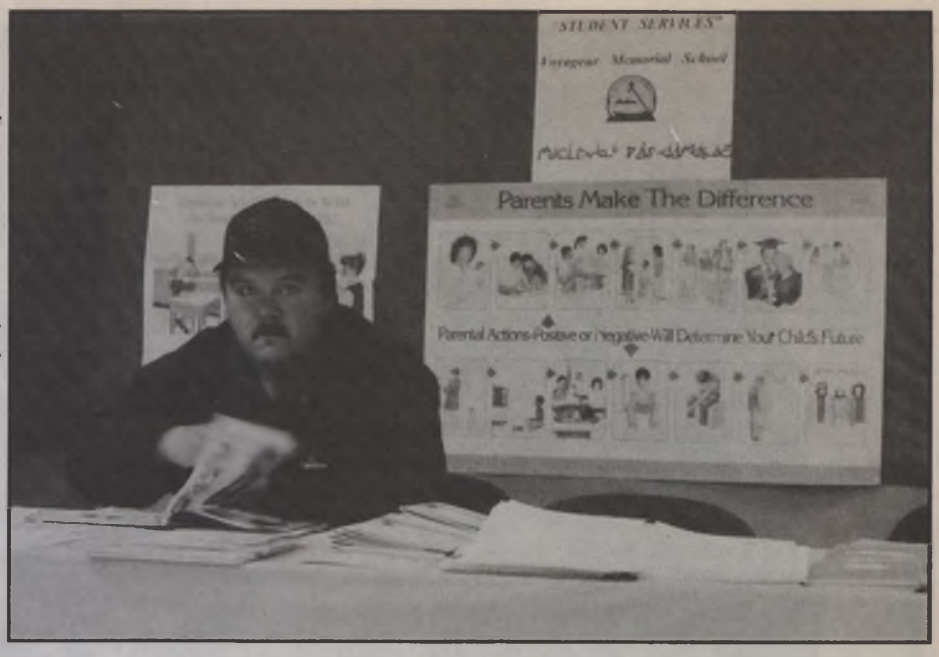
I had a chance to talk to the author of the report Henry Mianscum.

The Nation: Who hosted the conference?

Mianscum: The conference was hosted by the Voyager Memorial school committee as well in part by the Cree School Board. This was pursuant to the local general assembly of Mistissini in which they wanted to bring out specific issues pertaining to the problems in the school and the community. The local education conference was going to be used as one of the vehicles to try to address some of the problem areas and more or less come up with concrete solutions. Both short-term and long-term solutions. That was the essence of the

"I think in all of the Cree communities the common problem that was raised was the lack of involvement by the parents. It seems to be the number one area. The second is communication. So we don't communicate and that's a problem we have to address. So this Conference is a means of communicating with the people."

conference. We were hoping that everyone would participate but with the Local Education Conference being a new concept, sometimes it takes a while for people to grasp what it can be used for. We believe that in time if we don't stop with the Local Education Conferences or workshops we will in time know how to use it and what to expect of it. Perhaps we might get a better turnout.



You feel the turnout could have been better?

We believe it could have been better. If you take away the teachers, the regional staff of the CSB who helped in the planning and organizing of the Conference, if you take them away then it was a small crowd of parents. But don't forget that employees of the CSB are also parents whose children go to that school. I guess we expected a lot more from the community but then and again it was not much different from having a Band meeting. Sometimes a very small number of people show up for these things. I don't know if it was that we had a high expectation of participants, which is at fault, or whether we should focus on those people who are interested in showing up. Maybe that's something we should be looking at.

Do you think those people will be bringing the message back into the community?

We hope and there's only so much we can do. We can't go and drag people into the conferences and workshops. It's a false expectation if you do that. I think in time if you show. I think in time if you show some results coming from the workshops and people see that then you will see more people come out. They will start believing in these forums. I know at the Local Education Conference we expected some solid recommendations on how to deal with specific problems. We did get those and now it's up to us to work on those. If we just leave it on a shelf people are right to stay away. But if we do actual work and people see those results then they'll start believing in the process. It's up to us to prove that it can be done.

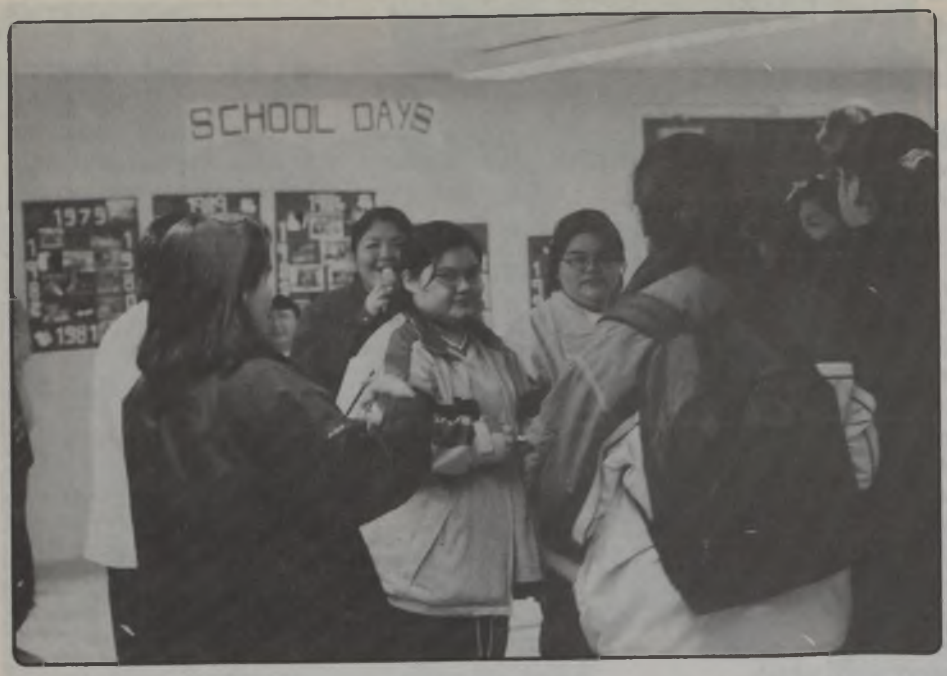
What kind of problems were you looking at?

The regular so-called problems such as parental involvement. This is the biggest and perhaps number one issue that we want people to talk about. We each have our own responsibilities to the child's education, be that at the home, community or the school. It's difficult to try to read anybody's mind as to what they want to say or what they think the problems are.

There are others too. What is being taught in the school, what curriculum are they following, the extent of the influx of elementary students into the secondary schools and what effect that has on the younger children and so forth. There are so many diverse areas of problems that we can look at. We all know that the success rates of our schools are very low. Something that we don't want to persist. It's something we want to improve. We can't get any worse than are right now. But it's a long-term effort. People can't expect miracles in one month or even one year. It's like planting a seed. You have to give it time. How well you nourish it is how well it will grow. This is what we have to do. We have to nourish our efforts as how to what we want and people have to keep working at it.

I notice there was reference made to the Mianscum Report. Could you give us a little background on it?

The report itself was complied on the information that was attained through community consultations in all of the nine Cree communities as well as in the post-secondary offices. It identified some problem areas in the domain of the CSB as well as within some schools. It was just in one area. We focused on the teachers. We focused on the students, the parents, the role of the community and so forth. There were so many issues that were brought up that it was unbelievable. We couldn't put everything in one document. I think if I had it to do over again I think I would break it down into different sectors. I would do one specific area at a time.



This was a rich and rewarding experience because the information we got from the people was something that will stay with me for a long time. I know the prime problem areas are the success rates, the high absenteeism of both students and teachers and the absence of leadership in the schools.

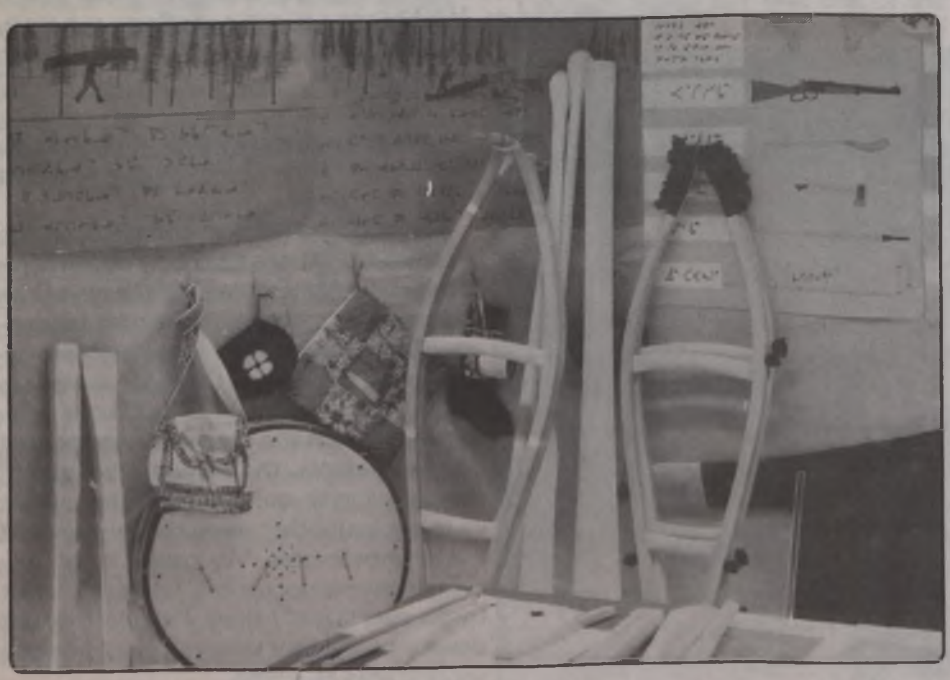
Whoever it is that you are talking to will have a different problem to talk about from another group. For instance if you talk to a student they focus on what they as the role of their parents towards them or how good of a teacher they may have. If you talk to the parents it's mostly that the school is not doing its part and so forth. It's so diverse you can't pinpoint the major problem. I think in all of the Cree communities the common problem that was raised was the lack of involvement by the parents. It seems to be the number one area. The second is communication. So we don't communicate and that's a problem we have to address. So this Conference is a means of communicating with the people. It's a start to establishing that communications network. I can honestly say being involved with the Conference I've seen the interaction between the parents, the teachers and the organizers. It was quite something. Something we would like to see day after day.

Was this the first time that they had come together for that long?

Yes, but I think a three day conference is a little long. A two-day conference may be more productive in terms of time. By the third day people get a little tired and the issues being repeated become a little monotonous. If you cut down, a lot more could be done providing you don't try to discuss everything under the sun in those two days. Be specific on what you want to address over the two days. Hold another two day conference down the road giving yourself time to start working on what on whatever's been recommended.

So you see Local Education Conferences as being important for the communities?

Yes, they are. We can't say we'll be able to answer everybody's concerns but it is a stepping-stone in the right direction. We may not deal with a specific issue at this time but in given months we will reach your given concern. It's a long walk for progress and it's a step-by-step process and along the way everybody has to do their part. It's a false expectation to say the CSB is going to fix all the problems. The problems that the CSB can't fix alone will end up always being there. The CSB can't go into our houses and say you teach your child the way they should be as a parent. I don't think the CSB has that responsibility, that's parental responsibility. The CSB can't go to a Band Council and say 'you do this.' It's a local government responsibility. This is what I mean; it has to be done in partnership to achieve results. I see it as five-to-ten year effort. I'm glad that the CSB has taken the initiative when the statement was made by the Chairperson of CSB itself wants to see a 50 per cent improvement in the success rate of the Creé schools over a five year period. That's a goal we should all work together to achieve. We shouldn't dwell on what the problems are. We all know what the problems are. We have to be very creative in finding the solutions that will work.



Is there anything you would like to add?

If you look at the structure of the Local Education Conference, I can honestly say it would have never materialized if the local participation was not there. There were a lot of volunteers who put in time and effort. A lot of hours, up until midnight or later sometimes, to plan and organize this. Everything was done voluntary through the efforts of the community. Maybe we fell short of the expectations of some people, but the next time around we'll improve. I can say I feel bad we didn't meet everyone's expectations with this conference but we tried. That's the best that we have to offer

now. The people that were involved, we thank them very much. There were teachers who worked until one' o'clock in the morning. You don't see that too often. Even the school commissioner, who is a volunteer to begin with, gave up many hours of family time to come and help out with the Conference. Many of the CSB staff came and helped out, the local staff and the regional staff.

It seemed, watching them, that the easiest part was to come and attend. The hard work is what you don't see sometimes and that is usually the easiest part to criticize. I don't think it's fair but it happens, I guess. I want to thank all the people involved and next time around we'll have more people and hopefully get better results in order to answer everyone's expectations.

CONSULTING

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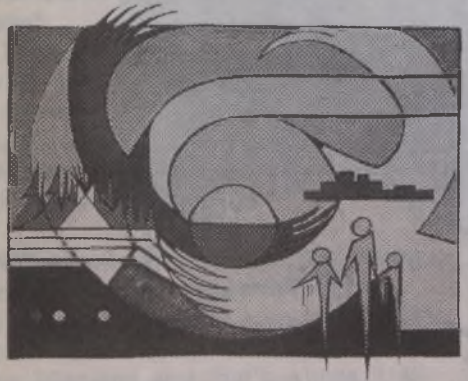

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Interview With The President

by Brian Zelnicker

Alfred Loon

While the world might be holding it's collective breath (as I write this) to find out who the next leader of the United States might be, this kind of indecision does not plague the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO). We at the Nation know who the next President is and it's none other than Mr. Alfred Loon of Mistissini.

CANDO was established ten years ago by economic development officers (EDOs) from across Canada to act as a support system to provide the officers with the training, education, and networking opportunities necessary to better serve their communities and organizations. Among its many achievements, such as the certified training program that has been coordinated with a number of universities and colleges across Canada, the organization maintains a resource library and a web site, as well as publishing the award winning Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development.

Mr. Loon spoke with the Nation last week at the Grand Council office in Montreal.

Nation: Congratulations President Loon. Can you tell us a bit about CANDO and its mission?

Alfred Loon: We're an aboriginal controlled, community-based, membership-driven organization. Our vision and mission is o build the capacity to strengthen aboriginal economies across Canada. we were very instrumental in setting up a certified training program for aboriginal (EDOs) across Canada.

How many council members are there?

There are eleven directors set up nationally across Canada, with each director representing a different region. We're all volunteers and all elected regionally. Our members sit on different committees, both standing and ad-hoc.

What experience do you bring with you to this new posting?

I've been working in economic development since 1984 at the local level. I'm from Mistissini and that's where it all started.

Based on your experience, what do you see as the next step for CANDO?

We have a good work plan in place. I really don't want to deviate from that plan. I'm pretty satisfied with the way (CANDO) is set up. There are still more things that we can do, for example, we can focus on regional workshops for the (EDOs) in different areas of economic development, like entrepreneurship development. Also, what I want to see is the status of the economic development officer raised, and have that as a career choice for the youth.

So you see EDO as a career choice worth exploring?

It's one of the areas where people can really make a difference. When you talk about economic development you don't just talk about the business aspect of it, you have to take other areas into account like the social aspect, the cultural aspect, and the political aspect. It's all a part of what I call community economic development. It's more than just the business side of it, we have to focus on the social economy aspect of what is community economic development.

Are there things in CANDO that you feel need to be changed?

The organization is still going through growing pains and we still have to re-focus on where we're heading. In other words, because we've been very visible at the national level for the last couple of years there's alot of other organizations that want to partner with CANDO in different areas, like conferences and studies. That's something we have to talk about

A Pearl to be Discovered

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as a group. I always take into consideration if it will benefit the member who is the economic development officer located in a particular community, it could be northern Quebec, northern Saskatchewan, or in Nunavut, or the Atlantic region.

What are the strengths you see in CANDO?

I think the board itself is made of highly dynamic people and we have different ideas coming to the table. We're the only national economic development organization and we really want to strengthen ties with the local EDO. We want to have a very close link with the officers and we don't want to be just another service delivery organization - I think there's too many of those.

So you want to make a difference?

I want to make a difference and I believe that CANDO can make a difference. I have a dynamic group of people with good ideas and we'll work as a team.

What new responsibilities will you have as President? How does this change things for you?

Well . . . I guess I'll always be the same person I have always been. Being the President is, according to the by-laws, the President is the CEO, so I'm keeping in close contact with the office of CANDO, located in Edmonton. We have an executive director and this person handles the daily operations and we communicate either by telephone or email so I'm in close contact with the office. You have to be committed and I think that's one reason why I accepted to be President of CANDO, because I can commit myself to be part of the group.

How does one get appointed as President?

We elect the President on a yearly basis and you hold the position for one year. The past President becomes an advisor - we did that for continuity. The ex-President stays on the board, also on the executive committee. If I get voted out after a year I would stay on as past President. You can be voted back in, on average maybe a President stays in for three or four years. It all depends on your commitment.

I hear you had a special guest speaker at this year's conference.

Matthew Coon Come was our keynote speaker at the President's dinner. The board really wanted him to speak, so they gave me the task of securing him to deliver a speech - I succeeded in doing that. I think my contacts with Matthew might have helped out in being elected President.

So, Mistissini is now the hotbed of aboriginal politics?

(laughing) I guess you could say that.

Can you tell me about the Cree skills training program that you helped launch?

How it all started was, a couple of years ago when I was at Concordia (University) I developed a friendship with one of the professors who became the Dean of the faculty of commerce. Before he got appointed he mentioned he wanted to develop a working relationship with our communities. With her assistance we developed a training proposal, a training plan for people that were directors of operations, treasurers, and economic development officers. This was only in the Cree communities. Last year we started with the administrative assistants, it's a customized course and the way it was done is they interviewed each director of operations and they expressed what their training needs were, like financial accounting, project management, etc. We also recognized that there were alot of people working under these directors of operations and some of them could take similar courses and that's how it started. We tried to build their capacity so they could work more efficiently and they could have a better understanding of their work. It's a customized, community-based method of training. That sort of coincides with the CANDO vision.

When was this program initiated?

It's been going on for about four years. I think everybody that went through this program is a success story, the way I see it. It really helped the participants and gave them a sense of confidence. The program is still in place and we're working on another round of training.

Any suggestions for Nation readers that might want to become development officers or enter into the training programs?

To the youth I would say that working in economic development is a good career choice. It's very diverse and you get a chance to work with different people with different ideas. That's one of the areas that I see as instrumental in the Cree world, is to have a good grasp of what economic development is all about. You might have perfect strategic plans, but if you don't have the appropriate skills and human resources - all your plans will be meaningless. So, in economic development the human resource aspect is an important factor. I want CANDO to make a difference and be effective in the economic development scheme.

**CANDO can be reached by phone at: (780) 990-0303 and by email at: cando@edo.ca

The Website address is: www.edo.ca

First Nation people Should Vote in the Federal Election

"There are three federal parties that could have a strong influence on the future of our communities: the Liberals, the Alliance Party and if there is a minority government elected, the Bloc Quebecois. We should look very carefully at what they are saying about aboriginal peoples in their election platforms."

The Liberals plan is to:

1. **continue to work with aboriginal peoples to address the economic and social challenges they face;**
2. **promote aboriginal language instruction in schools;**
3. **build and strengthen relations with aboriginal peoples;**
4. **promote aboriginal economic skills development and prosperous aboriginal economies;**

The Alliance plan is to:

1. **promote equality for aboriginal people with the rest of Canadians;**
2. **promote aboriginal participation in the mainstream economy but not through special "race based quotas" or special rights;**
3. **set up aboriginal communities as municipal governments that would be under provincial and federal jurisdictions;**
4. **allow aboriginal governments to collect local taxes;**
5. **require aboriginal peoples to pay income and sales taxes;**
6. **make sure that treaty settlements are final, fair and affordable.**

The Bloc plan is to make Quebec Separation "more urgent than ever" and with respect to aboriginal peoples it proposes to:

1. **promote the aboriginal right to their own culture, language and identity;**
2. **a new partnership between the Quebecois and the Aboriginals;**
3. **more federal funding for aboriginal housing;**
4. **implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.**

"It is easy for parties in opposition to make all kinds of promises. However, the Alliance Party makes promises to decrease our present personal incomes and fails to recognize our status as a third level of government. It has decided its program without consulting us. The Bloc's program is overshadowed by its promise to take us out of Canada against our will."

"In my point of view, it is time for us to vote. It should be recognized that in Quebec if you do not vote, you are giving your support to the Bloc Quebecois by letting someone else's vote decide. By voting we will increase our role in the decisions made about our future as Aboriginal Peoples."

Grand Chief Ted Moses

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Astchee)

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

There is a vibrant and thriving Aboriginal arts community in Canada. We have some magnificent writers, musicians, dancers, storytellers and visual artists. Many of these artists are familiar with the Canada Council, which is a federal government body that provides support to Canadian artists. In Ontario we also have the Ontario Arts Council.

Although many of the mainstream artists who live in urban areas have a good knowledge of these support systems, many of our artists in remote communities don't realize there is assistance available.

One of the secrets to becoming recognized in your artistic field is to be consistent. In other words, no matter what kind of art you do, it is necessary to try to do it seriously on a daily basis and to improve your craft or skills through education, mentorship, training and routine hard work. Once you have survived for a while and become good at what you do, you must also try to promote yourself so your art or skill are recognized.

When it comes to looking for support, you must a fit the criteria to receive support from the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council. Much of this has to do with how well you are received in the arts community and how much of a contribution your particular project will make.

The Canada Council features the Aboriginal Arts Programs, which are headed by Viviane Gray, Aboriginal Arts Coordinator. She is located in Ottawa. There are actually seven Aboriginal Arts programs, which include: Dance, Music, Theatre, Writing and Publishing, Visual Arts, Media Arts and Interdisciplinary Arts. To apply for support in dance or music you can contact Gerri Trimble; for theatre and writing & publishing you can contact Paul Seesequasis; for the visual arts and media arts you can contact Ian Reid; and for interdisciplinary arts you can contact Claude Schryer.

You can apply for these programs if you are a Canadian citizen and an Aboriginal status, non-status, Metis or Inuit person. In addition, if you are thinking of applying for any kind of grant you should also be recognized professionally as an Aboriginal artist either through formal training in an educational institute, experience by self-teaching or by traditional training by an Elder or traditional person, and you should have some standing within your peer community. You also have to be willing to make an effort to follow through with an application process that requires some thought and time. Generally your application will be considered on its artistic worth, your ability to produce and the benefits your particular project will provide to the community.

If you have never applied for a grant before, don't be surprised if you are turned down. There are many individuals applying for support and not everyone can be accommodated. Those who do receive support are selected through a jury system that includes Aboriginal artists, Elders and traditional people..

Over at the Ontario Arts Council the main contact is Denise Bolduc, Aboriginal Arts Program Officer. She administers two programs: Aboriginal Arts Projects and Aboriginal Artists in Education. To apply you have to be an Ontario resident, a Canadian citizen and an Aboriginal person. The application process works much the same as the Canada Council and the selection process for applicants is similar. The Aboriginal Artists in Education program is designed to support professional Aboriginal artists from all artistic expressions to provide creative experiences for learners, primarily with projects that have to do with the education system. The Aboriginal Arts Program develops opportunities for Aboriginal artists to engage with Aboriginal communities and strengthen the relationship of Aboriginal organizations and communities with the arts and Aboriginal artists.

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting both Viviane Gray and Denise Bolduc while they were promoting their programs in Timmins, Ontario. It was great to see local artists having the opportunity to talk first-hand with Viviane and Denise. Both of these women are very capable and have a lot of experience in the Aboriginal arts scene. For more information you can contact the Canada Council's Aboriginal Arts Coordinator at 1-800-263-5588 ext. 5212 or via their website at < www.canadacouncil.ca >. You can contact the Ontario Arts Council's Aboriginal Arts Program Officer at 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7454 or via their website at < www.arts.on.ca >.

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The Aanischaaukamikw/ Cree Cultural Institute project, in collaboration with the Cree Regional Authority, is pleased to announce a grant program aimed at the development of the performing and visual arts, and literature, in the Eeyou/Eenou communities. Financial support will be provided to Cree organizations or individuals in support of events or projects in the fields of music, theatre, dance, literature, painting, sculpture, etc.
Deadline for applications: January 15, 2001
Please contact Kenny Mianscum for further information on this program.

Thanks to the Quebec Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

Kenny Mianscum
Aanischaaukamikw/ Cree Cultural Institute
project coordinator

c/o Oujé-Bougoumou
Cree Nation Headquarters
Oujé-bougoumou, QC
G0W 3C0

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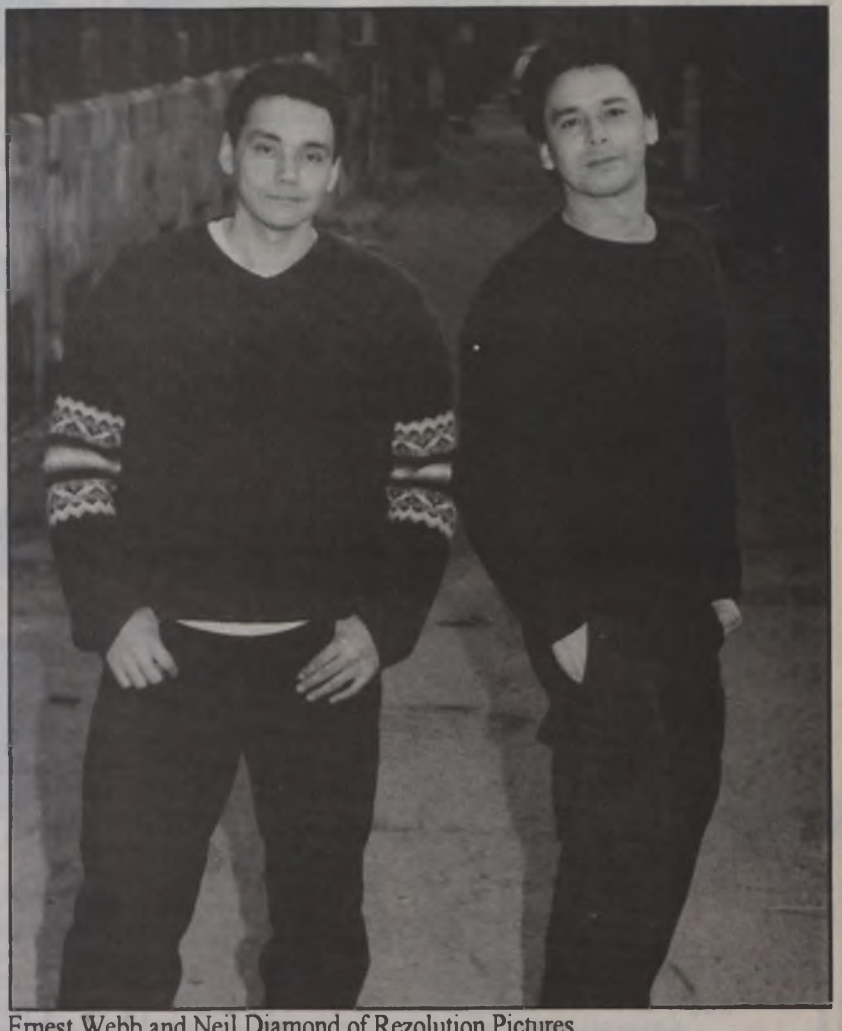
Cree Spoken Here

by Brian Zelnicker

On a cold and wet November night, when the television offered little more than the Montreal Canadiens blowing another hockey game, a mysterious man from Waskaganish dropped a video tape off at my door and scurried away into the darkness. The tape had a white label with the words *Cree Spoken Here* printed on it. I did the only logical thing I could, I put the tape in my VCR, airlifted the cat out of my seat, and watched the video. It turned out to be the best move I made all night.



Ernest Webb and Neil Diamond of Rezolution Pictures

Cree Spoken Here is a beautifully crafted documentary focusing on the survival of the native tongue of the James Bay Cree. Shot on Beta and High 8 video, and filmed on location in Waskaganish and Chisasibi (not to mention one small scene filmed in Montreal), Cree Spoken Here was put together on a budget of roughly $150,000. The video is a first venture for Rezolution Pictures, an upstart production team that are already at work on their next project. Cree Spoken Here was first conceived of almost two years ago when, as writer/director Neil Diamond tells it, "Daisy Bearskin, from Cree Programs in Chisasibi, called and told Catherine (executive producer) that other native groups in Canada and the U.S were interested in what the Cree School Board was doing - using Cree as a language of instruction - and wanted a short video to send around to interested parties. Catherine thought it would make a great documentary." The video is being released in three languages, Cree, English, and French. "I wanted Klingon too," Neil informed me, "but they wouldn't go for it."

Cree Spoken Here casts an unblinking eye on issues of language and cultural identity. It examines the external factors that threatened the Cree language and culture in the 20th century, such as the debilitating role played by the residential schools, where Cree children were removed from their communities and told they couldn't speak their own language. The personal testimonies are both moving and revealing, as members of the communities, including Waskaganish Chief Robert Weistche, recount their experiences as children caught up in the bizarre circumstances created by policies of both church and state. The filmmakers point out that only three native languages are expected to survive in this century: Ojibwa, Cree, and Inuktitut. The video suggests that the survival of the Cree language in James Bay was due in part to the fact that the residential school system came to the James Bay Cree as late as 1935, while it was instituted some two generations earlier in other parts of the country.

My guess is that Cree Spoken Here will stand as an important text for years to come. The production team should be proud of themselves for piecing together such an important historic and cultural document in a most sensitive and professional manner. They have managed to create a work that is both well researched and aesthetically striking. The filmmakers hope that Cree Spoken Here will help to build bridges to the past and strengthen the bonds of Cree cultural identity and continuity. Co-director and narrator Ernest Webb wanted to make sure, "to thank the communities, they really helped us out and understood what we were doing. We couldn't have done it without their cooperation."

**Cree Spoken Here will be aired on APTN Wednesday, November 29th at 8:00 p.m. and again at 11:00 p.m.

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101-BIRTHS

101- Birthdays

Birthday Greetings to Serenitee Neeposh ("SALT"). HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY to you sweet one on November the 24th. Enjoy your birthday Party with all your little friends. We heard that you had already opened one of your gifts, hope you don't end up opening all of them before your birthday is here. Much love to you; Reggie, Sophia, Darius & Terrance...

Three Birthday Wishes going out to. First to my wonderful, caring, loving & understanding father, Robert Kanatewat, on Dec.4th '00. **"Happy 66th Birthday, Dad!" Second to my beautiful, adorable, lovable & huggable niece, Tatiana Faith Wabagoun on Dec. 11th, '00. And last but not least, my handsome, adorable, lovable & huggable nephew, Matthew Raymond Emerson, on Dec. 18th, '00. Happy 2nd Birthday to you both. The three of you, your birthdays are one week apart, so we will celebrate every week in Dec. Ever since Tatiana & Matthew were born. After your b-days, Christmas is next to celebrate. Once again, "Happy Birthday & many more years to come." Hope your dreams come true. Love you all! Love always, your daughter & Auntie Lorraine K.**

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to William Benjamen Nov.25, 14 years old. Enjoy your day. We love you. From Mom Daisy, brother Eric, sister Mia.

Happy 10th birthday to my son, Abel Petawabano O. December 9. I hope you enjoy your day and I want to let you know that I will never leave you and I'll always be there for you. I know there are times you feel sad and lonely and I know the world can be mean ,but you and me together, we can face anything. I love you very much. Your mom, Charlotte.

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following people. In Waswanipi, Manuel Icebound on Nov. 5, and Natasha Happyjack on Nov.14. In Chisasibi, Lisa Diamond on Nov.15. In Great Whale, Jordan Shields on Nov.16. And in North-Bay, Natasha Shicapio on Nov.5. I would also like to wish some belated birthdays to Mike Shields on Oct.16 (GWR), Melanie Longchap on Oct.17 (Hull), Paula Menarick on Oct.7 (Chis.) To my best friend, Vicky Roussel on Oct.4 and to her boyfriend, Benjamin Masty on Oct.5 (GWR). Hope y'all had fun. Hey, Natasha H. I hope you'll be in Waswanipi on our birthday, cause I'm coming. Hope you have fun. From: Terrylyne (GWR)

To our little treasure, Cameron Gilpin; as we celebrate your 1st birthday on November 1st. We're thankful for the wonderful son the Lord gave us in you. With much love and pride on your birthday: "Happy Birthday" and we love you. From Mom and Dad, John Paul and Melanie.

November 1st is the special day the Lord has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it, why? Our first grandchild, Cameron is celebrating his 1st blessed Happy Birthday. God created this little boy in His own image. Little boys are God's expression of love. In fact, God chose Cameron to express His never ending love to us. With much love and a lot more blessed birthdays, from proud grandparents, Dennis & Barbara Gilpin.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to wish a Happy 20th Anniversary to our parents, Pauline and Tommy Matthew on November 22nd . Wishing you many more Anniversaries and a lifetime of happiness. we thank you for all the wonderful things you have done for us. We love you so much. Also to our Aunt Alexandra and her husband Thomas Chakapash who were married the same day as our parents. Happy 20th Anniversary to you too. With love from your daughters Caroline, Stella, Stefanie and sweet little Paulina.

A happy 30th Anniversary wish to our dear parents, Helen and Bruno on November 28, 2000. With much love, your offsprings: Jennifer, Stephen, Jason &

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Pash Travel would like to recognize Mr. Eric Silins for his ten (10) years of dedication and service. Eric has made many contributions to the success of Pash Travel and has spent many long hours of dedicated consultation work to meet the travel needs of our clients in the James Bay Territory and the various Cree entities.

Eric has a pleasant personality with an uncanny ability of providing solutions to unique travel situations. His hard work and loyalty to this company and to the clients is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with Eric for many more happy years.

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The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay is a Cree entity responsible for the administration of health and social services for all residents under its jurisdiction. This jurisdiction comprises nine Cree communities and their surrounding territories.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that there are numerous positions for the purpose of the recall list available within your community on a continuing basis. All interested applicants are reminded that these positions are accessible at the following locations:

- local band council
- local hospitals/clinics
- job banks

For further details
please do not hesitate to contact:
Human Resources Management
Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay
Chisasibi, Quebec J0M 1E0
Tel: (819) 855-2844 ext. 5340
Fax: (819) 855-2680
E-mail: hrmgmt@cancom.net

JOBS

JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ DES COMMUNICATIONS CRIES DE LA BAIE JAMES

NOTICE

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE NOTICE CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT POSTING OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY IS WITHDRAWN FROM PUBLIC POSTING. THE EMPLOYMENT POSTING IS CANCELLED.

THE BOARD OF JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY WISH TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE APOLOGY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE ARISING FROM THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE CANCELLATION OF EMPLOYMENT POSTING OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN ON THE 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2000 AND CERTIFIED BY THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICER.

Allen Matoush, PRESIDENT OF JBCCS

CLASSIFIEDS

Nicholas.

105-OBITUARIES

Losing Buddy Hurts In Loving Memory of Matthew Mimileo Jan-19-14 Oct 18/2000. An Influential Elder, my buddy went Home. I knew him, Caring and loving Heart. As I the casket I remembered the laughter we shared as in friendship. Never again I'll see him, I have meet Father in Heaven. In closing

300-PERSONALS

Congratulations are in order forRichard Lebizay's new position at Air Transat. Way to go Richard! From your favorite first officer at Air Creebec.

To someone who I consider a special friend. Through the years, we've had our ups and downs but always manage to get things to be the way they were to be. For the last few months you kept saying that you were very sad. it was because I was too busy in my own personal problems that I never bothered to ask you why you feel that way you felt. So there I had to find out from someone else why you are very sad. I want you to know that though at this time I feel like we don't stand a chance to be together yet I will try to be there for you, because there is a saying that LOVE conquers everything. You know how I feel about you, there is no question there. I am hoping you can get to see this before I can get a chance to talk with you about the situation. Why couldn't you just tell me? That's what I truly want to know. Let me hear it from you.

We would like to say hello to Cherish Joy Mianscum in Mistissini. We miss you, and keep in touch. Love Auntie Shannon and cousins Dawn,Rayannon,Keegan in North Bay

500-MISCELLANEUS

LOST WARRIOR, looking, behind barbed wire fences for help in any way from the People to regain the life and

Collection:

striking a balance between firmness and social responsibility.

About 90% of Hydro-Québec's customers pay their electricity bill right on time. But the other 10% — approximately 400,000 Quebecers — don't always meet their payment due dates. This represents millions of dollars of unpaid bills that Hydro-Québec, like the telephone or cable company or any other supplier of products and services, must collect.

Make payment arrangements to avoid more debt

While it treats all its customers fairly, Hydro-Québec encourages customers who are having trouble paying their hydro bill to work out a payment arrangement. Any customer who is unable to meet a payment date is invited to contact one of our representatives to set up a mutually satisfactory arrangement for paying the outstanding balance. This way, customers who are behind with their bill can pay down the outstanding balance over time and avoid more debt, especially in winter when consumption is higher.

Interruption of service is used only as a last resort

Hydro-Québec's collection policy is firm and fair. Customers who are late in their payments are notified several times, by phone and in writing, in an effort to encourage them to set up a payment schedule.

When a customer receives a notice of service interruption, it's because the attempts to work out an arrangement have to that point proved fruitless. Interrupting service is an extreme measure, a last resort. It is used only when attempts to make payment arrangements have failed.

Be smart about managing your electricity bill

Because of heating requirements, electricity costs are higher in winter, which is a good reason to develop good payment habits. Rather than let your debt build up, it's much better to work out a payment schedule and then make regular payments. Once the balance has been paid in full, you can sign up for the Equal Payment Plan, which averages out your electricity costs over a twelve-month period. Hydro-Québec recommends this as a way to help customers manage their budgets more easily.

Hydro-Québec and social responsibility

For Hydro-Québec, providing electricity is an essential service for residential customers in winter, and its collection policy reflects its sense of social responsibility. The company never interrupts service between December 1 and April 1 — unless the warm weather comes early — for residential customers, although it does do so for commercial or business customers. When the cold begins to set in, Hydro-Québec restores service to all residential customers who are behind in their payments so that their health and comfort are not compromised.

While doing everything possible to keep its rates stable and remain on a sound financial footing, Hydro-Québec places the well-being of its customers first. For Hydro-Québec, this is more than a social obligation, it's a priority.

If you are having problems paying your electricity bill, don't wait until the situation deteriorates. Contact us now at the phone number on your notice to make payment arrangements. We can help.

Hydro Québec

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knowledge of our Ancestors. We are a Lodge made up of many Nations and have a great hunger for the Ways of our people. The Creator is smiling upon us here, in a time where other prisons are suppressing our ways behind their walls. The Administrator here is willing to allow us to build a library of knowledge for our use.

We are seeking literature in any form, whether it is new or used books, or pamphlets, and even hand written teachings. We're also seeking (donations) of any Native related videos (original or copies), and Native music tapes (traditional or modern), or taped teachings. All Native knowledge is welcomed for one never knows which tribe a brother will come from.

If the Creator guides your heart to reach out to us, please send all responses to:

Chaplain George Bryant
HDSP
P.O. Box 650
Indian Springs, NV 89018

600-SECRET ADMIRER

I would like to say "Hi" to the gorgeous guy in Timmins, His name is Jason Snowboy. Hey handsome! Remember me? From your secret admirer. xoxo

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